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XXXVIII.—*Description of a new Species of Flycatcher (Myiagra) from the Fijis, and some Remarks on the Distribution of the Birds found in those Islands.* By EDGAR LEOPOLD LAYARD, C.M.G., F.Z.S., lately administering the Government of that Colony.

EVERY fresh excursion in pursuit of our favourite science, made either by my son or myself, to any new ground in these islands, impresses me more and more with the interesting character of the avifauna, as exhibited in the distribution and localization of species and in their variation. The accompanying Table shows, so far as our present knowledge extends, the distribution of birds on some of the chief islands which we have visited. It will serve for a beginning; and I doubt not that further research into the interior of both the large islands of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, of the eastern group of small islands (in the northern portion of which are Loma Loma and Mango), and of the western, or Yasawa group, will yield many additions to the list of the birds of Fiji.

A few remarks must be made as to the localities in which the birds here enumerated were collected. On Ovalau we have chiefly worked the eastern side, round the town of Levuka.

Wakaia we pretty well ransacked ; from Mokane, which adjoins it, I inspected a small collection. Our knowledge of Vanua Levu is restricted to the neighbourhood of Bua (Sandalwood Bay). Here Messrs. Holmes, Swayne, and Tempest were kind contributors ; and my son spent a month at the eastern end of the island. Mr. Kleinschmidt (Herr Godefroy's collector) has worked the southern side ; but, with the exception of *Lamprolia minor* (Kleinsch.), I know of nothing new that he has procured. He told me that he obtained the Orange Dove (*Chrysæna victor*), *Platycercus tabuensis*, and other known species. Taviuni was well worked by my son and myself at Ngila, on the north-eastern side, and skimmed by Mr. Tempest about Vuna Point, further south. My son and I visited Loma Loma and Mango, which I place together, but had not time for much real work. I have visited the whole of the maritime districts of Viti Levu ; and though I had no opportunity of collecting, I used my eyes. My son has made several trips up the Rewa river, and stayed a month at Suva, on the south-east end. I have also paid these localities flying visits, and have received small collections from two kind contributors on the Rewa, Messrs. Storek and Abbott. At Kandavu I stayed some days, and saw the whole of the 'Challenger' collection made there ; and my servant, collecting for Mr. Ramsay, of the Sydney Museum, worked there for some weeks and obtained several new species, which I do not describe, as they belong to Mr. Ramsay, but simply indicate.

The Sea-fowl and Waders require more attention. Though we have added several to the list, I am sure the low-lying Yasawa Islands and the eastern group will furnish many more ; so also will the Ringgold Islands to the north-east. It was on these latter that the Earl of Pembroke was wrecked ; and he describes the vast numbers of birds on the island on which they landed (see 'South Sea Bubbles. By the Earl and the Doctor'). As the Sea-fowl are naturally a wandering race, I have left a column in the Table expressly for them, indicating by the point of the compass the portion of the group where I have chiefly seen the species. The acquisition by my son of the rare little

Curlew (*Numenius femoralis*, Peale) a few days ago at "Cocoa-nut Point," in Sandalwood bay, adds a most interesting novelty to our list. He saw a pair of them, but only succeeded in securing the female. It must be very scarce, as we have kept a special look-out for it, but until this moment without effect.

During his visit there he also procured the very interesting new Flycatcher I am about to describe, and established the distinctness of *Myiolestes buaensis*, which is just intermediate between *M. vitiensis*, Hartl., and *M. macrorhyncha*, nob., and of *Ptilotis similis*, nob., from *P. carunculata*, Gmel. He also procured specimens of both sexes of my new Blackbird (*Merula vitiensis*) in splendid plumage.

MYIAGRA CASTANEIGULARIS, Layard, sp. nov.

Male. Upper parts dark ashy blue; crest on head short, azure; underparts, chin, throat, and upper portion of chest bright clear chestnut; thence to the vent white; tail-feathers partly white and partly of the colour of the back, the extended pair being white from the tip to two thirds of their length, the others less and less white, until the centre pair have the merest white edge to the tip; bill rich orange; legs ash-coloured; iris dark brown. Length 5" 6"', wing 3", tail 2" 10"', bill 10"', tarse 10"/>.

Female rusty grey above; top of head dark ashy blue; below coloured like the male, but less brilliantly.

Found in the high tree-forest at Kandi (Bua) feeding on insects; in habits and note resembling its ally *M. azureo-capilla*, Layard.

This elegant Flycatcher closely resembles its prototype *M. azureo-capilla*, from Taviuni (which is separated from Vanua Levu by a narrow strait), and is another illustration of the variation of species found in these islands. The upper parts are precisely similar (when the tail is closed, so that the white ends of the feathers do not show), with the exception of the crest, which, though similarly coloured, is *shorter*. On the underparts the dark chestnut of the throat is changed into a singularly bright chestnut; and the white of the abdomen,

and vent especially, is purer, the latter in *M. azureocapilla* being "isabella"-coloured.

It replaces the latter species on Vanua Levu in the same way that the little *Lamprolia minor*, Kleinsch., replaces *L. victoriæ*. The two, with the exception of a trifling difference in the brilliancy of the centre portion of the back of the head, are exactly similar; but the former is a third less in size than the latter.

The same may be said of *Myiolestes buaensis*, nob.; while *Ptilotis similis*, nob., which extends to Taviuni, may be distinguished from *P. carunculata* of Loma Loma by having *pale yellowish grey ear-tufts* instead of *bright golden yellow*. It is also generally less brightly plumaged—less yellow-tinted on the breast.

The fine examples of *Merula vitiensis*, nob., which my son procured, enable me to add some additional particulars to my previous description*. The abdomen and lower part of the chest in a fine adult male are a warm ruddy chestnut, and the vent is white. In the female the chestnut is toned down to a faint brown tint, and the white vent is very circumscribed.

I have already in another place (*anteà*, p. 141) expressed my opinion that *Platycercus tabuensis* was introduced into Eoa (Tonga Islands) from Fiji. My son made a special visit to the aged chief "Tui-Bua" (lit. "King of Bua," pronounced in the missionary jargon Tuimbua) for the purpose of getting information on this point. The old man, *whose mother was a Tongan woman from Eoa*, said that from time immemorial, ever since the Tongans gained a footing in Fiji (which was only in the districts where this variety of *P. splendens* is found, not in the southern portions where the bright-coloured race exists), it has been their custom to take tamed examples of *Platycercus* and *Lorius* to Tonga for the purpose of periodically plucking their crimson feathers for ornamenting fans &c.

I feel more than ever convinced that the Eoa Parrots have sprung from introduced birds†.

* [We have not been able to find Mr. Layard's description of this Thrush.—ED.]

† [See P. Z. S. 1876, p. 308, for an extract from Labillardière's 'Voyage in search of La Perouse,' where the introduction of Parrots into Tongataboo from Fiji is mentioned as early as 1793.—ED.]

Bua is the great, if not the only habitat for *Pachycephala griffii*, Hartl.; and my son procured a fine series of them.

A reference to the Table will show how the different species of this genus, and of *Ptilotis* and *Myiastetes*, are distributed over the group and yet confined to circumscribed localities.

In the accompanying Table birds whose names are preceded by * are peculiar to Fiji. They amount to exactly one half of our at present known species.

Tabulated List of Fijian Birds, showing their distribution in some of the principal Islands, as far as is known up to the present date.

	Ovalau.	Wakaitia & Mokani.	Vaua Levu.	Tavuni.	Loma Loma & Mango.	Viti Levu.	Kandavu.	Marine.
1. <i>Falco lunulatus</i> (a)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
†2. <i>Astur cruentus</i> , Gould	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
3. <i>Circus assimilis</i> , Jard.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
4. <i>Strix delicatula</i> , Gould	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
5. <i>Otus</i> ? —? (b)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
*6. <i>Platycercus splendens</i> , Peale	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
7. — <i>tabuensis</i> , Gmel.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
*8. — <i>koroensis</i> , Layard (c)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
*9. — <i>taviunensis</i> , Layard	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
*10. — <i>personatus</i> , Gray	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
*11. <i>Lorius solitarius</i> , Lath.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
*12. <i>Trichoglossus aureocinctus</i> , Layard	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
13. <i>Eudynamis taitiensis</i> , Sparrm.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
*14. <i>Cuculus simus</i> , Peale	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
*15. — <i>infuscatus</i> , Hartl.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
*16. <i>Halcyon cassini</i> , F. & H. (d)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
17. — <i>sacra</i> , Gmel.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
18. <i>Collocalia vanicoroensis</i> , Quoy (e)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
19. — <i>spodiopygia</i> , Peale	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
20. <i>Hirundo tahitica</i> , Gmel.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
*21. <i>Myzomela jugularis</i> , Peale	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
22. — <i>nigriventris</i> , Peale (f)	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
23. <i>Ptilotis carunculata</i> , Gmel.	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	

† [According to Mr. Gurney this Hawk should be called *Astur rufitorques*, Peale. Cf. *antea*, p. 384; see also Mr. Gurney's note on the Fijian Harrier, here called *Circus assimilis*.—ED.]

	Ovalau.	Wakaita & Mokani.	Vanua Levu.	Taviuni.	Loma Loma & Mango.	Viti Levu.	Kandavu.	Marine.
*24. <i>Ptilotis procerior</i> , <i>F. & H.</i>	*	*				*	*	
*25. — <i>similis</i> , <i>Layard</i>			*					
*26. — <i>provocator</i> , <i>Layard</i>							*	
*27. <i>Tatare</i> ? <i>viridis</i> , <i>Layard</i> †				*				
*28. <i>Leptornis</i> ? —? (<i>g</i>)						*		
*29. <i>Zosterops flaviceps</i> , <i>Peale</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
*30. — <i>explorator</i> , <i>Layard</i>			*	*			*	
*31. <i>Myiagra castaneiventris</i> , <i>Verr.</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*		
*32. — <i>castaneigularis</i> , <i>Layard</i>			*					
*33. — <i>azureocapilla</i> , <i>Layard</i>				*				
*34. <i>Monarcha lessoni</i> , <i>Homb.</i>	*	*	*	*		*	*	
*35. <i>Petroica vitiensis</i> , <i>Finsch</i>			*			*	*	
*36. <i>Merula bicolor</i> , <i>Layard</i>							*	
*37. — <i>vitiensis</i> , <i>Layard</i>			*					
*38. — <i>tempestii</i> , <i>Layard</i>				*				
*39. <i>Rhipidura albicollis</i> , <i>Layard</i>	*	*	*	*				
*40. — —? (<i>h</i>)							*	
*41. <i>Lamprolia victoriæ</i> , <i>F. & H.</i>				*				
*42. — <i>minor</i> , <i>Kleinschmidt</i>			*					
*43. —? —? (Red-head) (<i>i</i>)						*	*	
44. <i>Lalage terat</i> , <i>Bodd.</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
*45. <i>Pachycephala græffii</i> , <i>Hartl.</i>			*					
*46. — <i>vitiensis</i> , <i>Gray</i>							*	
*47. — <i>icteroides</i> , <i>Peale</i>	*							
*48. — <i>intermedia</i> , <i>Layard</i>						*		
*49. — <i>torquata</i> , <i>Layard</i>				*				
*50. —? <i>nigrogularis</i> , <i>Layard</i> (<i>j</i>)	*			*		*		
*51. <i>Myiolestes vitiensis</i> , <i>Hartl.</i>	*					*		
*52. — <i>macrorhyncha</i> , <i>Layard</i>				*				
*53. — <i>buaënsis</i> , <i>Layard</i>			*					
*54. — <i>compressirostris</i> , <i>Layard</i>							*	
*55. — —? (<i>k</i>)							*	
*56. <i>Artamus mentalis</i> , <i>Jard.</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*		
*57. <i>Aplonis vitiensis</i> , <i>Layard</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*		
*58. <i>Erythrura pealii</i> , <i>Hartl.</i>			*	*	*	*		
59. <i>Ptilinopus perousii</i> , <i>Peale</i>	*	*	*		*	*	*	
*60. — <i>fasciatus</i> , <i>Peale</i>		*			*			
*61. <i>Chrysena luteovirens</i> , <i>Homb.</i>	*				*			
*62. — <i>victor</i> , <i>Gould</i>			*	*				
*63. — <i>viridis</i> , <i>Layard</i>							*	
64. <i>Columba vitiensis</i> , <i>Quoy</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
*65. <i>Carpophaga latrans</i> , <i>Peale</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
66. — <i>pacifica</i> , <i>Gmel.</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
67. <i>Phlogoenas stairi</i> , <i>Gray</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*		

† [Referred by Count Salvadori (*postea*) to the genus *Leptornis*.—ED.]

	Ovalau.	Wakaitia & Mokuani.	Vauna Levu.	Taviuni.	Loma Loma & Mango.	Viti Levu.	Kandavu.	Marine.
*68. <i>Rallina pcciloptera</i> , <i>Hartl.</i>						*		
69. <i>Rallus pectoralis</i> , <i>Less.</i>	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
70. <i>Ortygometra tabuensis</i> , <i>Gmel.</i>	*					*		
71. — <i>quadristrigata</i> , <i>Horsf.</i>	*					*		
72. <i>Porphyrio vitiensis</i> , <i>Peale</i>		*	*	*	*	*		
73. <i>Limosa uropygialis</i> , <i>Gould (l)</i>								U.
74. <i>Numenius femoralis</i> , <i>Peale</i>			*					N.
75. <i>Actitis incanum</i> (<i>Gmel.</i>)								U.
76. <i>Charadrius fulvus</i> , <i>Gmel.</i>								U.
77. <i>Streptilas interpres</i> (<i>L.</i>)						*		Koro
78. <i>Ardea sacra</i> , <i>Gmel.</i>								U.
79. <i>Ardea javanica</i> , <i>Horsf.</i>						*	*	
80. <i>Dendrocygna vagans</i> , <i>Eyton</i>						*		
81. <i>Anas superciliosa</i> , <i>Gmel.</i>								U.
82. <i>Sterna bergii</i> , <i>Licht.</i>								U.
83. — <i>longipennis</i> , <i>Nordm. (m)</i>								?
84. — <i>melanauchen</i> , <i>Temm.</i>								U.
85. — <i>lunata</i> , <i>Peale</i>								S.E.
86. — <i>panaya</i> , <i>Gmel.</i>								U.
87. <i>Anous stolidus</i> (<i>L.</i>)								S.E.
88. — <i>leucocapillus</i> , <i>Gould</i>								U.
89. — <i>cinereus</i> , <i>Nébourg</i>								N.E.
90. <i>Gygis alba</i> (<i>Sparrm.</i>)								S.E.
91. <i>Larus</i> — ? (<i>n</i>)	*							
92. <i>Thalassidroma macgillivrayi</i> , <i>Gray (m)</i>								?
93. <i>Puffinus nuzax</i> , <i>Sol.</i>			*			*		E.
94. <i>Procellaria cerulea</i> , <i>Gould†</i>			*			*		N.E.
95. <i>Diomedea melanophrys</i> , <i>Temm. (o)</i>								S.
96. <i>Phaëton rubricauda</i> , <i>Bodd.</i>								N.
97. — <i>æthereus</i> , <i>L.</i>								N.
98. — <i>candidus</i> , <i>Gray</i>								N.
99. <i>Dysporus sula</i> , <i>L.</i>								U.
100. <i>Tachypetes aquilus</i> , <i>L.</i>								U.

(a) I have not seen this bird, but enter it on the authority of Baron von Hügel. It was shot on the Rewa by Mr. Storck.

(b) My son, Mr. Leopold Layard, and others have seen a large brown Owl on several occasions; but none have reached my hands.

† [*Æstrelata leucoptera*, Gould, may be added to this list, as we have recently examined a specimen of this species in the Paris Museum, which was brought by M. Filhol from the Fiji Islands.—Ed.]

(c) Intermediate between the Bua bird and the collarless variety found on Taviuni. Found on Koro only.

(d) I do not think this is a good species; I include it on the authority of Drs. Finsch and Hartlaub, with their mark of †.

(e) Included on the above authority. They give no special locality.

(f) Ditto. It is said to have been found in Sandalwood Bay; but none of my collectors have seen it, and I doubt the statement.

(g) A fine new species, entirely green, with yellowish legs and bill, just discovered by Herr Godeffroy's collector.

(h) Discovered by Mr. Ramsay's collector, therefore not named.

(i) Ditto. I know not to what genus to refer this bird.

(j) I originally placed this bird, provisionally, in the genus *Lalage*, not having any works of reference at hand for consultation. It certainly does not belong there, and is nearer *Myiolestes*. [A typical *Myiolestes*, fide Finsch, P. Z. S. 1876, p. 20.—Ed.]

(k) Discovered by Mr. Ramsay's collector. The giant of the genus.

(l) The letter U after this name and others stands for "Ubique," the species being generally distributed on our seaboard and in our seas.

(m) Included on the authority of Drs. Finsch and Hartlaub, who give, on G. R. Gray's authority, the locality Ngau Island.

(n) I did not see this bird, which was picked up not far from Mr. Kleinschmidt's house, and taken to him; he assures me it was a genuine *Larus*.

(o) Teste Baron von Hügel.

‡ [To this list must be added the species allied to *Orthotomus* recently described by Dr. Finsch (P. Z. S. 1876, p. 19) as *Drymochæra badiceps*.—Ed.]

Levuka, May 20, 1876.

XXXIX.—*Notes on the Trochilidæ.* The Genera *Heliothrix*, *Calliphlox*, *Catharma*, and *Petasophora*. By D. G. ELLIOT, F.R.S.E. &c.

Genus HELIOTHRIX.

THE members of the genus *Heliothrix* are possessed of graceful form and a plumage of a pleasing contrast of green and white. They have long tails, the female's being longer than that of the adult male. The three species are distributed generally over Central and South America, not, however going south of Brazil on the east coast, nor Peru on the west. In reviewing the geographical distribution of the species, we see that Guatemala is the most northern country which any of them inhabit; and here is found *H. barroti*, which goes through Central America, Columbia, into Ecuador,